

## THE AKAMAI.

Description of the New Steam Schooner for Island Trade.

This is the name of the new auxiliary steam schooner now being constructed by Mr. J. A. Dwyer at his building yard near the Fish Market. There are several remarkable features possessed by this steamer which are worthy of notice, and which we will endeavor to describe.

The hull has a concave or hollow bottom. The engine section hangs 4 feet forward, and is 1/2 the vessel's length from the bow. This arrangement makes the vessel remarkably full of water, and was so intended by the designer. In taking a water line 2 feet from side of hull, it strikes 6 inches above the center of the propeller. This peculiarity is accounted for by the vessel being 2 feet deeper at the bow. As may be supposed, a model of this kind causes a very full counter or quarter, but the "water" line given to the counter raises the hull, and the stern is clear of the water. There will be a pointed counter under a 16 foot bowsprit, and forward the vessel looks, from her wedge-shaped prow, as if speed was chiefly considered in the design. While in the stern arrangement, beauty of lines seems to have been the intention. The counter used in the construction of this unique craft, is a beam truss imported from Honolulu, by the designer and builder, Mr. Dwyer, and this fact shows that durability has also had its consideration. The timbers have all been bent on a machine invented by the builder, and which is patented in the United States. The hull is made of the finest material. The whole hull below the water line is copper fastened, with heavy yellow metal clankings for keel, behind which is a double propeller. The timbers are of bent oak, double framed, a keel from center to center. One of these timbers crosses the top of the keel, which is 2 feet 6 inches deep, and the other timbers are spaced the keel 18 inches apart, and are connected and made the keel a perfect arch. Next to the keel, the latter arrangement is the most remarkable feature of the vessel.

The length overall is 50 feet, beam 15 feet, and depth of hold 5 feet. Mr. Dwyer does not seem sanguine of unusual speed as the vessel will be propelled by an engine having only 20 horse power, but the economical advantage and stowage capacity of the vessel will be satisfactory. The measurement is 25 tons, and will carry from 55 to 60 tons. In addition to her steam power this vessel will be schooner rigged and carry a full set of sails and all schooner sails.

The whole frame of this steamer was bent from oak plank, by one man and a boy in two weeks, no wood being used for any of the timbers except that of the timbers under the counter, which are natural crooks.

Regarding the singular name that will be given to this vessel, it was first suggested by an up-town wag; and Mr. Dwyer intends to adopt it. The significance of the word Akamai is "valiant".

Specimen at San Francisco.

The passion for smuggling opium is as strong in San Francisco as here or elsewhere. A seizure was lately made of \$10,000 worth of opium in the Arabic from China, and near the end of the same month, \$5,000 worth more was seized on the Atlantic, both lots having been forwarded by the Steamer Fogarty, with, as reported, in case of the latter, the passing of a steamer, making the lot of opium to be forwarded to the coast, since a special order in a light partition to the quarters of the Chinese crew attracted his attention. Knowing that the crew did not belong there, he began an investigation with a glass which he finally threw through the window, and was soon rewarded by seeing something hard. With lowered energy he continued to bore and the instrument yielded, and there he withdrew the instrument. The point was reached when a substance like rubber, which of course was prepared opium, was discovered. The package was immediately opened, and the opium was found in the form of cakes of the size of a brick. The package was then opened by a light and a shot was fired into the water. The purpose of lowering them into the water when the proper time arrived. The package was then opened, and the opium was found in the form of cakes of the size of a brick. The package was then opened, and the opium was found in the form of cakes of the size of a brick.

The discovery of the opium was made by the crew of the Arabic, who were ordered to search the ship for opium. The opium was found in the form of cakes of the size of a brick.

The Mountain Apple.

The plant of the mountain apple is one of our most delicious native fruits, and is now in season. When fully ripe, it is a dark purple color, and has a very strong, sweet, and juicy taste. The fruit is of the size of a small apple, and is very easy to eat. It is a very healthy fruit, and is very good for the stomach. It is a very good fruit for the children, and is very good for the old people. It is a very good fruit for the sick, and is very good for the weak. It is a very good fruit for the poor, and is very good for the rich. It is a very good fruit for the whole world, and is very good for the future.

The fashionable dog of 1889 is to be the shaggy, or little skipper. He comes from the low countries and is the old-time companion of the Flemish burgher. He is black, with a white patch on the chest, and a hard coat in which is rough, and does not weigh over twelve pounds.

## STEAM WHISTLES.

Systems for Steamships, Plantations and Factories—Size and Cost.

Steam whistles are made in great variety, from the little tin pipe that is attached to the street peanut roaster to the big loghorns that announce the approach of ocean steamships. They have displaced bells wherever it is necessary to send a warning to a long distance. With a strong and favorable wind the loudest steam whistle may be heard twenty miles. They are much used in factories and on Southern plantations.

The biggest steam-whistle on record heretofore was made by Manning, Maxwell & Moore for a Canada sawmill. The mill was located in a sparsely settled locality, and had had several fires, which resulted disastrously, on account of the difficulty of summoning assistance. The proprietors sent to New York for the biggest whistle that could be got. The result was a steam-whistle about two feet in diameter that could be heard twenty miles. It took a 60-horse power engine to blow it. This whistle cost \$150.

It is not unusual to make factory and plantation whistles that can be heard ten or twelve miles. Big ship whistles are made of ten or twelve inches diameter. A much-used whistle is what is known as the Crosby whistle. It consists of three whistles, one above another. These three whistles are much used on ships. The smallest of the three whistles is about five inches in diameter. This pattern can be heard a longer distance than any other.

Whistles of long are procured by varying the shape in the same way that a boy changes the tone of the wooden whistle that he makes. The sound steamers have a whistle that is quite distinct from the whistles of other boats, and is usually recognized in a fog.

Railroad whistles are sharp and piercing, not intended for long distances, but rather for immediate alarm, especially for cows and other animals that get on the track. The latest idea for railroad whistles is to have a different pitch for passenger and freight trains, so as to afford an additional warning to the engineers.

There is a very ingenious fog-whistle which is attached to boats and lightships and is worked by the motion of the waves and the aid of bellows. This is, of course, not so piercing as a steam-whistle, nor can it be heard as great a distance, but it is a very useful invention and contributes much to the safety of coast travel in the fog.

Steam whistles cost from \$10 upward, and are generally made of brass. Of late years they have been nickel plated. Some of the biggest whistles in this vicinity are on the Greenpoint factories. The big three-story whistles are sometimes called the steam gun. There used to be a boat in the harbor fitted with a set of steam whistles called a calliope. Barnum used to have a calliope traveling with the "Greatest Show on Earth." The music was rather harrowing to cultivated ears. The whistles were peculiarly adapted to staccato notes, and seemed to have been created to play "Pop Goes the Weasel."—N. Y. Sun.

## AUSTRALIAN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

The regular midwinter heat of Sydney (speaking of the seasons as I am accustomed to them in New England, although January in this hemisphere is midsummer) is something that must be experienced to be understood. At the opening of the year thermometers which hang in airy passages registered 114 deg., and in the sun indicated 150 deg. There is always a breeze in the city, without which the heat would be unendurable, but it is a humid, enervating breeze, and gives no relief unless one can sit in an exposed place and enjoy it without exertion. The slightest exercise throws one into a profuse perspiration, the appetite fails and energy vanishes. January, February and the early part of March are most unfavorable times for visiting New South Wales, or, indeed, any other part of Australia, and the visitor thereto, who is wise in his generation, will seek to retain the agreeable impression which he has gained in the other months of the year by leaving the country during this heated season. Tasmania and New Zealand are the places of refuge to which they resort who can during the depressing Australian summer. Some repair to the Blue Mountains, a hundred miles inland from Sydney, where the air, if warm, is still free from the oppressive moisture of the coast, and the evenings, at this elevation of some three thousand feet, are cool and refreshing. One finds there in number like the herds that persecuted Pharaoh, but they can be avoided, in a measure, and are, at least, a change from the Sydney mosquitoes. These are the most venomous brutes of their kind that fly; they are as the sands of the seashore for multitude, and the sound of their singing at night is like the roaring of surf upon the rocks. I had thought I knew the ultimate possibilities of the mosquito, both in numbers and virulence, from experience in the Sandwich Islands, but in neither respect is the Hawaiian insect to be compared with his brother in New South Wales. I am told that there are places where he is even worse than in Sydney, and that in the north, toward the Queensland boundary, his kind rises from the marshes to form numbers in the evening as to form a cloud which completely hides the setting sun. This I can well believe, although I have not seen it for years. In Sydney the mosquitoes make life unendurable in the evening, and sleep impossible, except under carefully adjusted nettings.—Australian Corr. Boston Journal.

We would add to the above, from our own knowledge, that the great interior of Australia, except the banks of rivers, is entirely free from mosquitoes, and it is only in marshy districts, ever on the coast, that this pest is annoying. The temperature is high in summer, but it is a dry heat and not oppressive. There are no mists or fogs. Etc.]

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LADIES' SKIRTS, Wide Embroidery Ruffle and Seven Tucks, Fine Cotton, only \$2.00.

LADIES' SKIRTS, Torchon Lace Ruffle, Ten Fine Tucks, Good Cotton at \$2.50.

LADIES' SKIRTS, Deep Embroidery Flounce, Ten Fine Tucks, and Inserting Tucks, \$2.50.

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LADIES' MERINO VESTS, High Neck, Long or Short Sleeves at 50 cents, 75 cents and \$1.

LADIES' LISLE THREAD JERSEY VESTS, all sizes, at 75 cents in Unbleached, Pink, Ecru or Light Blue. All our Muslin Underwear, is made of Good Cotton, and all Nicely Finished.

[1261-3m]

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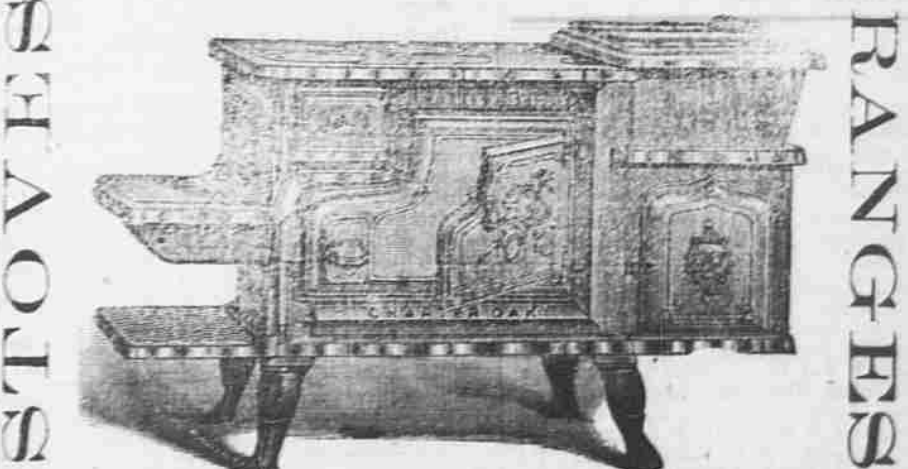
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